

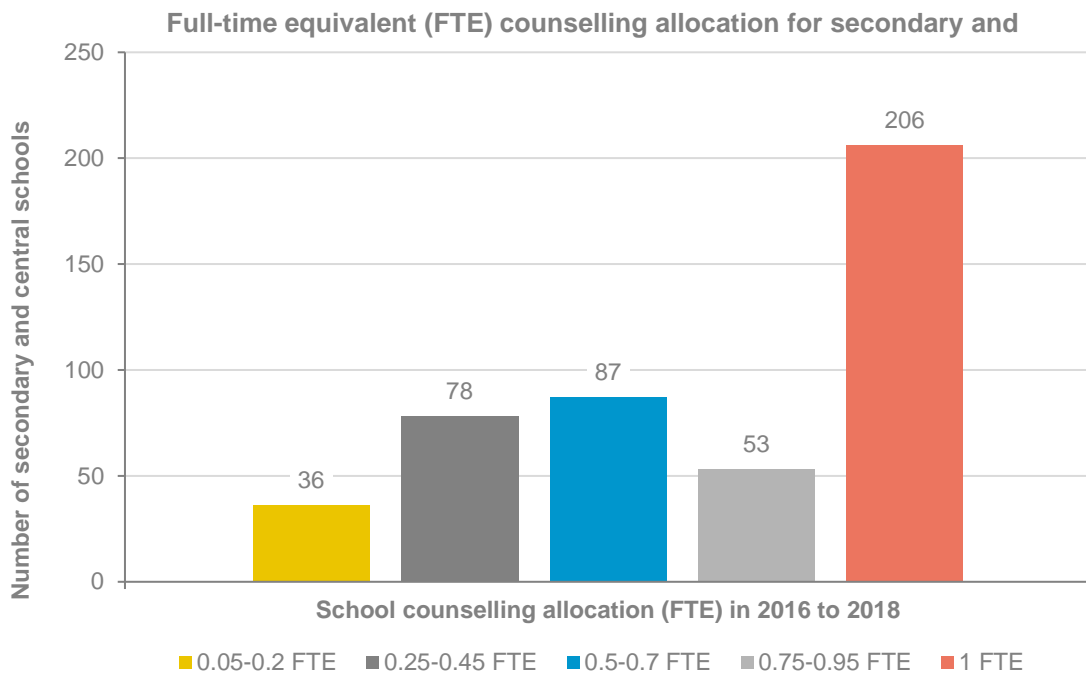


Appendix three – Funding and resources for schools

School counselling allocation

Every school receives an allocation for a qualified counsellor or psychologist. School counselling allocations range from 0.05 full-time equivalent to one full-time equivalent. From 2016–2018, 206 (45 per cent) of 460 secondary and central schools in NSW received a full time counselling allocation. Most of the schools receiving a full-time counselling allocation (74 per cent) had student enrolments in 2015 equal to or exceeding 850 students.

Exhibit 8: School counselling allocation in secondary and central schools 2016 to 2018



Source: Audit Office Analysis based on data provided by the Department of Education.

Flexible funding for wellbeing allocation 2016 to 2018

In 2016 to 2018, 213 secondary and central schools in NSW received an additional funding allocation under flexible funding for wellbeing services. The value of allocations for 2016 to 2018 are shown in Exhibit 9.

Exhibit 9: Allocations of flexible funding to secondary and central schools

Funding bracket	Number of schools receiving funding
\$33,000–\$34,999	96
\$35,000–\$43,000	17
\$45,000–\$50,000	62
\$82,000–\$83,000	38
Total	213
Total secondary and central schools in NSW	460

Source: Department of Education 2018. CESE NSW public school census FTE enrolments 2018 (460 secondary and central/community schools in NSW excludes distance education and intensive English centres).

Flexible funding can be used to employ additional staff including student support officers, school counsellors additional to the core allocation and other staff to support wellbeing. Schools can also use the funding to support the capacity of staff to meet the wellbeing needs of their students e.g. through professional learning. Exhibit 10 details schools use of flexible funding for wellbeing in 2017.

Exhibit 10: Wellbeing services and activities on which secondary schools spent their flexible funding in 2017

Expenditure category	Percentage (%) of schools reporting spending on category
Employment of specialist staff	55
Other whole of school wellbeing program	36
Employment of wellbeing exec/staff	29
Professional learning in wellbeing approaches	24
Wellbeing program for students in need	25
Engagement of third party provider	10
Other	12
Services targeted towards Aboriginal students	8
Services targeted towards refugee students	4
Employment of a school psychologist	2
Employment of a counsellor	1

NB: responses non-exclusive, totals exceed 100 per cent.

Source: Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) 2018.

Student Wellbeing Support Program 2018 to 2020

The Student Wellbeing Support Program has a total budget for \$3.0 million over three years (2018 to 2020). The program is open by application to all NSW Government schools. The program aims to help schools to fund a student wellbeing support officer. Successful applicants will be provided annual funding of \$7,000 by the Department however the schools must contribute \$7,000 of their own and source \$7,000 from the school community annually over the course of the three programs. In 2018, the Department received 90 applications from secondary and central schools in NSW. All applications for the program were approved. Seven schools out of the 90 withdrew from the program without spending any funds. Refer to Exhibit 11.

Exhibit 11: Student Wellbeing Support Program expenditure

	2018	2019	2020
Program expenditure	\$574,000*	\$602,000***	--
Participating schools	83**	86***	--
Total secondary and central schools	460	460	--

* Program expenditure has been adjusted to account for \$49,000 of returned funds from schools that withdrew from program.

** Ninety successful applications to program, seven schools withdrew and returned funds to the Department.

*** Department of Education expected expenditure and number of participating schools for 2019.

Source: Department of Education 2019. CESE NSW public school census FTE enrolments 2018 (460 secondary and central/community schools in NSW excludes distance education and intensive English centres).